

owlet was about 1 wk old. Backdating from the date when this owlet was found, the first clutch of this female was laid during the last week of March or the first week of April. After the owlet died, the female remained on the nest until 20 May. She was also observed roosting within 1–200 m of the male in the vicinity of the original nest on 10, 12, and 19 May.

On 26 May, the female which had lost her young was sitting on another nest in a tree about 100 m farther up the canyon than the first nest tree. During daylight hours on 6 July, she was partially erect on the edge of the nest in a position that was clearly visible from the ground. Prior to this date, it had been difficult to see the incubating female from ground level. Based on her more vertical position on the nest we think that the second clutch of egg(s) hatched immediately before 6 July. On 13 July, an owlet was on the edge of the nest. On 16 July, the partially eaten remains of the female and an owlet were on the ground near the nest tree. Entrails had been removed from the female. A foot was all that remained of the owlet on the ground. Within the nest, we found a portion of the owlet's beak and the female's wing.—**K.W. Kroel and P.J. Zwank, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, New Mexico Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, New Mexico State University, Las Cruces, NM 88003.**

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AMERICAN KESTREL COMPLETES CLUTCH FOLLOWING MOVEMENT OF ITS NEST BOX

Compared with many other raptors, American Kestrels (*Falco sparverius*) are quite tolerant of disturbance during incubation (P.H. Bloom and S.J. Hawks 1983, *Raptor Res.* 17:9–14; T.J. Wilmers et al. 1985, *N. Am. Bird Bander* 10:6–8). Even so, daily disturbance usually causes nest desertion (J.A. Gessaman and P.R. Findell 1979, *Comp Biochem. Physiol.* 63A:57–62). The contents of kestrel nests have been removed and placed in metabolism chambers during incubation (Gessaman and Findell 1979), but I am not aware of any published reports where kestrels continued to incubate eggs that had been moved to a different location. Here I report such an event.

The nest box was initially located in a dead maple (*Acer* sp.) 3 m above the ground in southwest Wood County, Ohio. On 3 May 1992, the nest box, containing two eggs (R. Wensick pers. comm.), was removed from the tree and placed upright on the ground 3 m away. The tree was then felled and cut into pieces. I learned about the situation on 5 May and checked the box at 1205 H, discovering the male incubating four eggs. At 1435 H that same afternoon, the female was incubating the eggs. Fearing that the nest would succumb to mammalian predation if left on the ground, at 1515 H I secured the box to a steel fence post 1 m above the ground and 10 m from where the nest tree had been. At the time, the female was perched on a utility wire 100 m away. At 1620 H, I observed the nest box from a distance of 0.5 km with a spotting scope. The female was then perched on a utility wire 10 m away. At 1628 H, she flew to the box, hovered at the entrance for several seconds, then flew to the cut up nest tree and circled around the pieces of the tree for 2 min. At 1630 H, she flew to the box and entered it. She was still in the box when I left 15 min later. During the evening of 5 May the remains of the nest tree were removed and the stump burned. I observed the nest from 1122–1142 H at a distance of 0.5 km on 6 May. I noticed no activity in the vicinity of the box, but observed a pair of kestrels copulating near a nest box located 1 km to the east, suggesting that the pair had deserted and moved to a new nest site. The translocated nest box contained five cold eggs when checked at 1050 H on 10 May. The pair was again observed 1 km to the east.

Thus, after the nest tree was felled, three eggs were laid: two while the box was on the ground and one after it was placed on the fence post. Incubation was observed, and probably initiated, while the box lay on the ground. Incubation normally commences when the fourth egg is laid in a five egg clutch (R.D. Porter and S.I. Wiemeyer 1972, *Condor* 74:46–53).

These observations show that this pair of kestrels continued to use their nest after it was relocated a short distance away at a lower height. This suggests that kestrel nests may be successfully relocated, if disturbance can be kept to a minimum following relocation.

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